

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 MC-02 SAJ-01 /067 W
----- 077546

R 211225Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5085

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, MASS, HU, XG

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN ARMS SUPPLY TO THIRD WORLD

REF: STATE 011673

1. HUNGARY IS NOT SIGNIFICANT ARMS SUPPLIER TO THIRD WORLD.
IT IS ALSO NOT MAJOR PRODUCER OF WEAPONS. ALMOST ALL OF
THAT WHICH IS MANUFACTURED HERE IS BELIEVED TO BE FOR WARSAW
PACT USE. HUNGARIAN FORCES ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS
FROM WARSAW PACT MEMBERS FOR ADVANCED WEAPONS, ARTILLERY,
COMBAT TRANSPORT, AIRCRAFT AND MANY OTHER COMPLEX MILITARY
ITEMS.

2. EMBASSY HAS NO SOLID INFORMATION RE SALES OR DELIVERIES
OF HUNGARIAN ARMS TO THIRD WORLD. NOR DOES IT HAVE EVIDENCE
THAT HUNGARY ACTS AS FRONT FOR SOVIETS IN THIRD WORLD ARMS
SALES. ONLY KNOWN MILITARY AGREEMENTS IN 1974 WERE WITH
ARAB STATES OF EGYPT, IRAQ, SOUTH YEMEN AND SYRIA.

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WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH, IF ANY, OF 45 MILLION DOLLARS

MENTIONED IN THESE AGREEMENTS WAS FOR WEAPONS; WE ALSO DO NOT KNOW WHETHER 45 MILLION DOLLARS WAS GRANT AID WITH NO SALES OR ARMS INVOLVED. THERE WERE RUMORS IN OCT 1973 THAT WEAPONS WERE PULLED OUT OF HUNGARY AND SHIPPED TO EGYPT OR SYRIA. WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE.

3. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT HUNGARIAN MILITARY LEADERS BELIEVE THEMSELVES TO BE POORLY ARMED WITH SOVIET OR OTHER WARSAW PACT--PRODUCED WEAPONS. HUNGARIAN OFFICERS CONTINUALLY STATE THAT THEIR MILITARY FORCES ARE WELL-EQUIPPED EVEN THOUGH WESTERN ATTACHES KNOW THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE LATEST EQUIPMENT AND MUST BE LOW ON SOVIET PRIORITY LIST.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT HUNGARIANS WOULD DEFER TO SOVIETS REGARDING ANY WESTERN INITIATIVE AIMED AT RESTRAINING ARMS TRANSFER. ARMS SALES DO NOT, REPEAT NOT, SEEM TO BE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN HUNGARIAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. ANY DECISION RE RESTRICTION OF SALES OR DELIVERIES WOULD BE POLITICAL DECISION RENDERED BY MOSCOW.
MCAULIFFE

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